CAPTAIN AMERICA®

MARVEL

#25

SPENCER
SAIZ
BENNETT
PIMENTEL
ROSENBERG

PAINTED DESERT, NEVADA.

FWOO!

FWOO!

ZATZ!

AMAZING.

TWO HEROES. ONE MANTLE. NO QUARTER.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

WARNING! Read this issue BEFORE SECRET EMPIRE #8

A Cosmic Cube transformed Steve Rogers, Captain America, into the ultimate Hydra sleeper agent--and he used a moment of international crisis to claim the country for Hydra. Earth's strongest heroes are trapped in Darkforce-enshrouded Manhattan or beyond the planetary defense shield. Inhumans are imprisoned in holding camps, and mutants have been exiled to a territory called New Tian.

Sam Wilson walked away from the Captain America mantle before Steve Rogers' true colors were revealed, and he's tried to make up for that by joining the anti-Hydra resistance. But with their base destroyed, their allies dying and their Cosmic Cube fragments lost to Steve Rogers, the Underground is ready to give up the fight.

It's time for Captain America to make a stand...

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IT WAS THE DAY WHEN THE AXIS OF THE WORLD BEGAN TO SHIFT.

THE DAY HISTORY WAS DETERMINED.

THAT DAY, TWO SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED. AND WITH THE FIRST CAME--

WAR.

THIS IS NOT A DECISION THAT I HAVE UNDERTAKEN LIGHTLY. WAR IS AN OPTION OF ***LAST RESORT.***

THESE RESOLUTIONS ARE THE RESULT OF MUCH DELIBERATION BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE HIGH COUNCIL.

WE PREFER PEACE, ALWAYS. BUT PEACE IS ONLY DERIVED FROM ***STRENGTH***. JUSTICE FROM ***AUTHORITY***.

AS WE SEEK ORDER, WE MUST ALWAYS UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL TEST OUR RESOLVE.

FOR YEARS, THE NATION OF WAKANDA HAS BEEN A THORN IN OUR SIDE-- PROLIFERATING DANGEROUS TECHNOLOGIES AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, IGNORING INTERNATIONAL LAW--

--AND THAT ENDS ***NOW.***

WHEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED DUE TO ITS CORRUPTION AND WEAKNESS, A GROUP OF RADICAL MUTANT SEPARATISTS USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO FORM THE ILLEGAL TERRITORY CALLED NEW TIAN.

SINCE TAKING POWER, I HAVE PROMISED TO RESOLVE THAT INJUSTICE. TODAY, I ***FULFILL*** THAT PROMISE.

THE HEADS OF BOTH OF THESE SO-CALLED STATES HAVE IGNORED OUR REPEATED DEMANDS, AND INSTEAD HAVE CHOSEN A PATH OF ***AGGRESSION*** AND ***DEFIANCE***.

THOSE BEHAVIORS ARE NO DOUBT DUE IN PART TO THE FACT THAT PREVIOUS REGIMES WERE MORE THAN WILLING TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHEN CHALLENGES AROSE. REST ASSURED--

--THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE.

WE ARE GOING TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT ***DISOBEDIENCE*** REAPS. HOW THE RULES HAVE ***CHANGED***.

WE PUNISH THOSE WHO TRANSGRESS. WE FIGHT TO THE LAST.

CUT OFF ONE LIMB, TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE.

TO THE PEOPLE OF WAKANDA AND NEW TIAN, THERE IS STILL TIME--URGE YOUR "LEADERS" TO DO WHAT IS REQUIRED. RISE UP AND SAVE YOURSELVES.

BECAUSE WE ARE COMING. AND WE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL THIS IS FINISHED.

UNTIL WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS IS ***RETURNED***.

UNTIL WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM US IS ***RESTORED***.

HAIL HYDRA.

NEW TIAN.

KING XORN! KING XORN! TAKE COVER--THEY HAVE STORMED THE PALACE--

CRASH!

HIVE, VIPER, FAN OUT-- THEY'LL HAVE TO BE--

AAARGH!

YOU WERE ABOUT TO SAY "EXPECTING US," WEREN'T YOU, KRAKEN?

WELL, VIPER--IF THIS IS A STATE VISIT--

--WE'LL GIVE YOU THE ROYAL WELCOME.

IT IS USELESS TO FIGHT, BEAST--

--OUTSIDE THESE DOORS, YOUR NATION BURNS. WE ONLY WANT YOUR ***LEADER.***

PITY, THEN-- AS YOU CAN SEE, XORN IS QUITE WELL PROTECTED.

YOU MISUNDERSTAND, BEAST--WE HAVE NO NEED FOR YOUR PUPPET--

WE ARE HERE FOR THE ***TRUE*** RULER OF NEW TIAN.

ENOUGH!

THIS HAS GONE ON FAR TOO LONG.

EMMA?!

YOU WANTED TO SEE THE ***TRUE*** RULER OF NEW TIAN? HERE SHE IS. AND YES-- I HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

GOOD. THEN YOU'RE COMING WITH US. AND WHO KNOWS? THE SUPREME LEADER MAY SHOW YOU MERCY. IF YOU BOW TO HYDRA WITH ENOUGH SINCERITY, ONLY ***HALF*** OF YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE WIPED OUT BY MORNING.

NO. THAT'S NOT HOW THIS IS GOING TO BE.

MY DELEGATION AND I WILL TAKE OUR OWN PLANE TO WASHINGTON, WHERE I WILL PRESENT MY COSMIC CUBE FRAGMENT TO ROGERS-- AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL.

THEN WE WILL NEGOTIATE A ***CEASEFIRE,*** NOT A SURRENDER.

OTHERWISE, I CAN SHOW YOU WHAT MY PUPPET CAN DO.

TAKE MY OFFER OR LEAVE IT. BECAUSE THIS IS MY PROMISE--

--NO MUTANT WILL KNEEL.

WAKANDA.

"THE NORTHERN FRONT HOLDS, MY KING. HYDRA'S FORCES ARE RETREATING.

"BUT FROM THE SOUTH--"

--THEIR DREADNOUGHTS APPROACH THE PALACE.

HUBRIS. THOSE MACHINES ARE THEIR PRIDE AND JOY. THEY HAVE GROWN TOO RELIANT ON THEM.

LET US MAKE THEM SEE THEIR ERROR.

"--AS THEY FALL FROM THE SKY."

LET THEM SEE WAKANDA'S ANSWER--

NOW WE FINISH THIS.

DEPLOY THE GATECRASHERS!

HODARI, DID YOU HEAR ME? I SAID *DEPLOY.*

N-NO. NO, MY KING--I--I CANNOT.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

OH, I BELIEVE THE WORD WAS CLEAR ENOUGH--

--BUT THEN, I IMAGINE A MAN IN YOUR POSITION SO RARELY HEARS IT.

YOU--

DOCTOR FAUSTUS AT YOUR SERVICE. OR RATHER, AT HYDRA'S. I BELIEVE YOU KNOW MY ASSOCIATE, ***ZENZI.***

T'CHALLA.

IT REALLY IS IMPRESSIVE, T'CHALLA, WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE. YOUR ONE LITTLE NATION TURNING BACK THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE MOST POWERFUL ARMY ON EARTH.

IMAGINE WHAT YOU COULD'VE ACCOMPLISHED-- THE HISTORY YOU COULD'VE MADE--

--I WAS SO HOPING YOU WOULD RESIST.

ZEMO...

BUT, REALLY, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER FAUSTUS' OFFER OF SURRENDER GENEROUS, T'CHALLA.

IT WOULD BE QUITE EASY FOR HIM TO TELL YOUR SOLDIERS TO TURN THEIR WEAPONS ON THEMSELVES, AFTER ALL...

--HAD YOUR PEOPLE REMAINED ***LOYAL*** TO YOU.

MY PEOPLE WOULD ***NEVER--***

NOW, DON'T BLAME YOURSELF. I CAN BE QUITE PERSUASIVE. AND IT WASN'T EASY, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.

SUCH A STRICTLY ISOLATIONIST, INDEPENDENT CULTURE. THE WAKANDAN MIND IS A...FASCINATING THING.

BUT STILL, SOME ARE MORE MALLEABLE THAN THE OTHERS. AND EVEN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, A BIT OF GOOD OLD-FASHIONED WESTERN CAPITALISM SEEPS THROUGH. THAT WAS ALL I NEEDED.

...MAKING YOU THE KING OF EVEN ***MORE*** DEAD MEN.

YES...GO ON, THEN-- MAKE THE DECISION A GOOD RULER MAKES. BUT BE QUICK--

I SHOULD SAY THANK YOU-- YOUR NATION HAS ALLOWED ME TO TEST OUT SOME APPROACHES OUR SUPREME LEADER WAS SOMEWHAT...RETICENT TO TRY BACK IN OUR BELOVED HOMELAND. BUT I IMAGINE HE'LL BE SWAYED--

--ONCE HE SEES HOW HALF YOUR ARMY AWAITS MY COMMAND AND DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE IT YET. I NEED ONLY GIVE THE WORD, AND THEY WILL HAPPILY SURRENDER.

NO--

--WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER. WE WILL FIGHT UNTIL-- UHNN--!

OH, GOOD--

--AND TELL ME WHERE THE CUBE FRAGMENT IS.

AND SO THE WAR ENDED AS SOON AS IT BEGAN.

WITH HYDRA'S ENEMIES BEATEN--

--THOUGH NOT BROKEN.

BUT EVEN AS THEY STOOD ON THE CUSP OF TOTAL VICTORY, THEIRS WAS NOT THE ONLY SPEECH DELIVERED.

AND WITH THE SECOND ONE--

--CAME HOPE.

PAINTED DESERT, NEVADA.

YOU KNOW, WHEN I GOT THIS SHIELD--FIRST THING I SAID WAS, I'M NOT BIG ON SPEECHES.

THEN I WENT AND GAVE A BUNCH ANYWAY--WHEN I SAW SOME THINGS GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY THAT I DIDN'T LIKE, WHEN RHODEY DIED--

--WHEN I GAVE UP BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA.

REALLY, THOUGH, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED.

AFTER ALL, IT WAS PRACTICALLY IN THE JOB DESCRIPTION. WHENEVER THINGS WOULD GO WRONG, EVERYONE LOOKED TO STEVE ROGERS TO TELL THEM WHAT TO DO.

GUESS THAT'S WHAT LANDED US IN THIS MESS TO BEGIN WITH, ISN'T IT?

WHEN THINGS GOT ROUGH, WHEN WE'D WORN OURSELVES DOWN--INSTEAD OF FIXING WHAT WAS BROKEN, TAKING RESPONSIBILITY--

--WE DECIDED IT WAS EASIER TO JUST HAND IT ALL OVER TO HIM, LET HIM DO IT FOR US.

DIDN'T TURN OUT SO WELL.

SO NOW, HERE WE ARE. WITH HIM OUT THERE EVERY DAY, TALKING TO THE COUNTRY, REMINDING EVERYONE HOW BAD WE SCREWED UP. HOW WE CAUSED ALL THIS.

HOW WE SPENT ALL OUR TIME FIGHTING EACH OTHER. CHASING BIG IDEAS THAT BLEW UP IN OUR FACES. FLYING SO HIGH WE LOST TOUCH WITH THE GROUND BENEATH OUR FEET.

BEST I CAN TELL, NONE OF IT'S *WRONG.*

HERE WE SIT--OUR FRIENDS DEAD. OUR HOME DESTROYED. NOTHING LEFT BUT THE BLAME.

OUR GHOSTS ALL CAME BACK, THE BILL WAS DUE. QUESTION IS--

--WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

DO WE GIVE UP? TURN OURSELVES IN? SURRENDER? ADMIT THEY WERE ***RIGHT*** ABOUT US?

OR DO WE REMEMBER WHO WE ***REALLY*** ARE?

I LOOK AROUND HERE AND I SEE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO STOOD UP WHEN ***GALACTUS*** CAME. WHEN THE ***SKRULLS*** ATTACKED. THE ONES WHO PUT THEIR OWN LIVES ON THE LINE TO SAVE OTHERS.

AND THAT'S STILL ***WHO YOU ARE.*** MAYBE IT'S NOT WHAT PEOPLE REMEMBER FIRST ANYMORE. MAYBE IT'S NOT HOW YOU SEE YOURSELVES--

--BUT YOU CAN STILL ***BE*** THAT. MIGHT BE A LITTLE RUSTY AT IT, BUT YOU STILL KNOW ***HOW.***

AT THAT PRISON CAMP THEY BUILT ON NEW ATTILAN, THEY'RE PROCESSING ***THOUSANDS*** OF NEWLY CAPTURED INHUMANS TODAY.

I SAY WE GO AND TRY TO STOP IT. TRY TO ***FREE*** THOSE PEOPLE. DO IT LIKE WE'RE ***SUPPOSED*** TO--SAVE SOME LIVES, STAND UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT. ***BE HEROES.***

NO QUESTION THEY'LL HAVE US OUTGUNNED--THAT WE MIGHT LOSE. MAYBE ***DIE.*** I DON'T THINK I CARE ANYMORE. ALL I WANT IS THE FIGHT.

THESE PEOPLE--***HYDRA***--EXECUTED OUR FRIENDS. THEY MURDERED AN ENTIRE CITY. THEY'VE LOCKED UP MILLIONS, ARE CHASING AFTER MILLIONS MORE. ***INNOCENTS.***

WHO WANTS TO ***SPEAK*** FOR THOSE PEOPLE?

WHO'S GOING TO BE THEIR ***JUSTICE?***

WHO WANTS TO BE THEIR ***AVENGERS?!***

AND SO WE DECIDED.

WE WOULD STRIKE BACK.

WE WOULD FACE OUR UNSTOPPABLE ENEMY--

--EVEN IF IT WAS FOR THE LAST TIME.

WE KNEW HOW LONG THE ODDS WERE, ALL OF US. THAT IT WAS PROBABLY A LOST CAUSE.

IMAGINE OUR SURPRISE, THEN, TO LEARN--

--THAT WE WEREN'T ALONE.

UH, SAM-- I KNOW YOU HAD US PRETTY PUMPED FOR THIS WHOLE "GREAT LIBERATORS" MOMENT, BUT CHECK IT OUT--

--IT APPEARS WE'RE A LITTLE LATE FOR THE PARTY.

EVEN BETTER--

"--WE HELP."

AND SO WE DID.

IT WAS A SIMPLE THING, REALLY.

SOMETHING WE'D ALWAYS KNOWN HOW TO DO, BUT HAD SOMEHOW FORGOTTEN.

WE SAW PEOPLE BEING OPPRESSED, HURT--

--AND WE STOOD WITH THEM AGAINST IT.

AND AS WE DID, WE STARTED TO REMEMBER AGAIN--

--EVERYTHING ELSE WE'D FORGOTTEN.

WHAT MADE US PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS.

WHAT WE STOOD FOR, EVEN IN THE FACE OF SO MUCH EVIL.

WHY WE STRIVED, HOW WE STRUGGLED...

...HOW TO BE HEROES.

GOOD JOB, EVERYONE. HYDRA IS IN FULL RETREAT, BUT WE CAN'T LET UP NOW.

CAPTAIN AMERICA--I AM **ISO.** I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO SPEAK FOR THE INHUMANS--AND PLEASE KNOW, I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US WHEN I SAY--

THANK YOU FOR RESCUING US!

WELL, WE'RE HAPPY TO HELP, LADIES, BUT BEST I CAN TELL, YOU DIDN'T REALLY **NEED** IT. YOUR WARRIORS HAD THINGS IN HAND.

YOU MIND TELLING ME HOW YOU PULLED OFF THE LITTLE JAILBREAK WE FLEW IN ON?

IT WAS *BARF!*

BARF DID IT!

BARF! BARF! BARF!

...SORRY?

UH...THEY MEAN **ME,** SIR--

--MY NAME'S **BRIAN MCALLISTER.** BUT EVERYONE AROUND HERE CALLS ME **BARF.**

I PREFER BRIAN.

THAT'S ONE HELLUVA MONIKER, SON--

TO BE FAIR, ALL THE GOOD CODE-NAMES REALLY ARE TAKEN AT THE POINT.

WELL, IN MY CASE IT DOES KINDA FIT...

HOW'S THAT?

IT'S MY **POWER,** SIR-- IF I CAN VISUALIZE CERTAIN THINGS, I CAN, *UM*--WELL, YOU KNOW...BARF THEM UP.

I AM SO EXCITED TO BE HERE FOR THE MOST RIDICULOUS THING EVER.

SOME OF THE OTHER DETAINEES FIGURED OUT HOW TO GET MY MASK OFF AND THEN I GOT A LOOK AT THE GUARDS' KEYS. THOSE HURT COMING UP...

WAIT--IF YOU CAN VISUALIZE IT--YOU MEAN **ANYTHING?**

WELL, NOT EXACTLY...

IT DOESN'T WORK EVERY TIME. IT'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING-- I DUNNO, **ALTRUISTIC** I GUESS? LIKE, IT CAN'T BE A GUN OR ANYTHING. THERE'S A SIZE LIMIT--

--AND IT HELPS IF I CAN SEE AN EXAMPLE FIRST, YOU KNOW? EVEN IF IT'S JUST A PICTURE OF SOMETHING--

HOLD ON...HOLY-- TONY, ARE YOU--

WAY AHEAD OF YOU. HEY, KID--

--VISUALIZE THIS.

HRK

AFTER GOING SO LONG WITHOUT HOPE, WE BARELY RECOGNIZED IT WHEN WE SAW IT.

WE HADN'T GONE THERE LOOKING FOR THIS, AFTER ALL.

AND IT CAME SO EASILY, SO SUDDENLY.

SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT FROM SUCH AN UNASSUMING PLACE. HERE IT WAS...

...OUR CHANCE TO CHANGE EVERYTHING.

YOU GOTTA BE @#$@ KIDDING ME.

24 HOURS LATER.

YOU CALLED FOR US, TONY?

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY TODAY.

YOU BROUGHT US IN HERE BECAUSE IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?

I GOT A CAKE!

TONY, WE ARE NOT GONNA EAT YOUR CAKE.

I WILL.

-SIGH- OKAY, I'LL BACK UP. REMEMBER THESE?

NOT TOO LONG AGO, AN INHUMAN HAPPENED ALONG WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE-- **ULYSSES**. AND MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, GUY'S TRACK RECORD WAS ASTONISHINGLY SOLID.

TIME AFTER TIME, HE PREDICTED MAJOR INCIDENTS WITH CRAZY-GOOD ACCURACY--

"--UNTIL THIS WEEK, WITH HIS PREDICTION THAT SPIDER-MAN WOULD KILL CAPTAIN AMERICA ON THE CAPITOL STEPS.

"EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS VISION SYNCHED UP WITH WHAT WE ALL SAW--THEIR PLACEMENT ON THE STEPS, THE PIECE OF WRECKAGE INVOLVED, EVERYTHING--

"--UNTIL THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.

"WHICH GOT ME THINKING--WHAT ARE THE ODDS? THAT ULYSSES GETS IT RIGHT EVERY TIME BUT THIS ONE? PRETTY SLIM, RIGHT? NEXT QUESTION IS--

--WHAT'S THE VARIABLE?

SO I CHECKED THE FILM, AND--

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT?

COME IN CLOSER, I'LL ZOOM IN-- SEE IT?

JUST A TOUCH OF BLUE.

IT'S ONE OF THE CUBE FRAGMENTS STEVE CURRENTLY HAS IN HIS POSSESSION, I'M GUESSING.

WAIT, YOU'RE SAYING THE FRAGMENT ALONE--

WELL, I COULDN'T KNOW FOR SURE, BOBBI. SO I DECIDED TO TEST IT--

"--BY MAKING A WISH."

EARLIER.

EXCUSE ME, MR. STARK? MR. STARK?

LISA. LISA **BLAINE.** THIS IS MY SON, **PATRICK.** YOU, UH, YOU HELPED GET US OUT OF A COLLAPSED BUILDING IN **LAS VEGAS.**

NO, NO-- THAT'S ALL FINE, IT'S JUST--WE KNOW YOU'RE VERY BUSY, BUT--WELL, GO ON, GIVE IT TO HIM, PATRICK--

RIGHT--LISA. WELL, SORRY ABOUT THE CONTINUING DECLINE IN THE QUALITY OF YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS--

WHEN HYDRA ATTACKED, PATRICK AND I WERE IN THE KITCHEN AT THE BASE. I WAS TEACHING HIM HOW TO BAKE HIS FIRST CAKE--I'M A PASTRY CHEF, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE CALMING.

WHEN WE EVACUATED, HE-- FOR SOME REASON I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND-- HE THREW IT IN A BOX AND STUFFED IT IN HIS BACKPACK. I THOUGHT, WHAT IN THE DEVIL WOULD WE NEED THAT FOR--

BUT THEN WE HEARD EARLIER THAT IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, AND WELL, IT'S JUST THE STRANGEST THING--

YEAH-- STRANGEST THING.

BIRTHDAY WISHES DO COME TRUE SOMETIMES. EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT I CAN'T ACTUALLY EAT IT, BECAUSE I'M NOT TECHNICALLY ALIVE. BUT IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.

SO, WAIT-- YOU MEAN JUST THAT ONE FRAGMENT--

EXACTLY. COMMON THINKING ON THESE THINGS WAS, FOR THEM TO WORK, YOU GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL--

BUT TURNS OUT THEY EACH HAVE AN INDEPENDENT CHARGE, SOME KIND OF RESIDUAL ENERGY BASE. WHICH MEANS--

WE DON'T NEED THE WHOLE THING TO FIX THIS? WE CAN JUST--

WELL, NOT EXACTLY--

"I TRIED TO WILL SOME OTHER THINGS INTO EXISTENCE--

I WANT TO BE A REAL BOY!

DANG IT.

"DIDN'T WORK."

THERE ARE **LIMITS** TO HOW MUCH YOU CAN ASK OUT OF JUST ONE FRAGMENT. IT WORKS BEST IF YOU'VE LINED THINGS UP ALREADY AND JUST ASK IT FOR A LITTLE PUSH. AND IT DEFINITELY HAS A LIMITED CHARGE--

PLEASE TELL ME YOU DIDN'T USE IT ALL GETTING THE CAKE.

S'GOOD CAKE, THOUGH.

NAH, WE'RE GOOD. BUT WE NEED TO USE WHAT'S LEFT VERY WISELY--I'M THINKING ABOUT MULTIPLIER EFFECTS.

USE IT TO GET US IN POSITION TO GET MORE CUBE FRAGMENTS.

EXACTLY. AND TO DO THAT, WE'RE GONNA NEED REAL FIRE-POWER. RAZ--

YOU STILL GOT YOUR MACHINE? THE THING THAT COULD GET A MESSAGE OUT PAST THE SHIELD AND INSIDE THE BUBBLE?

YEAH, IT WAS THE ONLY THING I HAD TIME TO TAKE WITH ME.

GOOD--

--I MIGHT HAVE A PLAN.

"A PLAN TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO HYDRA'S DOORSTEP."

BUT ONCE AGAIN--

--WE WOULDN'T BE DOING IT ALONE.

ATLANTIS.

ARRRAAGGHH!

WHAT ARE YOU **LOOKING AT?!** I AM **NAMOR, KING OF ATLANTIS!** I WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE LIKES OF **YOU!**

I DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

"IF I HADN'T GIVEN ROGERS BACK HIS DAMNED CUBE FRAGMENT, ATLANTIS WOULD BE IN THE MIDST OF A WAR IT COULD NEVER WIN."

BUT LOOK AT WHERE IT'S GOTTEN ME...

MY OWN PEOPLE LOOK UPON ME WITH DISDAIN. THEY REVOLT IN THE STREETS. THEY CALL ME A **COWARD!**

AND PERHAPS THEY'RE NOT WRONG. HYDRA SHIPS CONTINUE TO FILL THE SEAS, UNABATED. I HAVE BEEN MADE THE FOOL.

I COULD'VE TOLD YOU APPEASEMENT WOULDN'T WORK WITH A MAN LIKE STEVE ROGERS.

YES, WELL--

YOU'D KNOW HIM BEST, WOULDN'T YOU?

WE'RE ALONE NOW. TAKE OFF THAT RIDICULOUS DISGUISE.

HH. THIS IS THE ONLY HAPPINESS ANY OF THIS HAS BROUGHT ME.

"TO KNOW THAT, EVEN AS HE SOUGHT TO DESTROY ME, I HID MY GREATEST TRIUMPH OVER HIM IN PLAIN SIGHT.

"HOW ANGRY WOULD HE BE TO KNOW WHO I PULLED FROM THE WATER THAT DAY SO LONG AGO?"

THE MAN HE SOUGHT TO *KILL*. THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE HIS *CLOSEST FRIEND*--

--HIS DEAR **BUCKY BARNES.**

YEAH, YEAH. YOU'RE VERY **SNEAKY,** NAMOR. NOW IF YOU'RE WILLING TO ACTUALLY LISTEN TO ME FOR ONCE--

--I DO HAVE A **PLAN.**

SECRET EMPIRE

NEXT

ON SALE NOW!

ZONE